

July 21, 2016

Mark Scarano
Northern Border Regional Commission, Co-Chair
J.C. Cleveland Federal Building, Suite 3602
53 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Mr. Scarano:

I write in support of Tri County Community Action Program's (CAP) application to the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) to expand the Friendship House treatment facility on Bethlehem, New Hampshire. This funding would be used to expand the recovery unit at Friendship House to accommodate 32 beds, and would provide critical support to an area in northern New Hampshire that is in need of additional capacity within treatment facilities.

As Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic, I have seen firsthand how our communities are being devastated by opiate addiction and misuse. One of the top concerns that I have heard from my constituents is the lack of available treatment beds in our state. Per capita, New Hampshire's rate of addiction is among the worst in the country, and our state ranks second to last in the country for access to treatment. Friendship House is the only comprehensive treatment facility in northern New Hampshire, providing critical counseling and support services to individuals in a traditionally underserved part of my state.

The funding sought from the NBRC would help the Tri County CAP provide a multitude of services to individuals with alcoholism and substance use disorder problems, and help guide them towards a path to recovery. Access to appropriate treatment is a serious challenge that families face in rural areas, and this holds true for families in the North Country. Tri County CAP's plan to increase the number of beds at the Friendship House represents a significant commitment to Granite Staters with substance use disorder, and I support the organization's request for \$250,000 in funding through the NBRC.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and please to not hesitate to contact my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 225-5206 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress